

CLAIMS

1. An absorbent system comprising:

a packaging component; and

an absorbent article removably disposed in said packaging
component, said absorbent article comprising at least first and second
portions each defining a body side surface, wherein said absorbent article is
independently movable from a folded condition, wherein said body side
surfaces of said first and second portions face each other in a substantially
parallel relationship under an applied pressure applied to said first and second
portions, to an unfolded condition, wherein no pressure is applied to said first
and second portions; and

wherein said body-side surfaces of said first and second
portions form at least one angle greater than or equal to about 90° when said
absorbent article is released to said unfolded condition for about 20 seconds.

2. The absorbent system of claim 1, wherein said body-side
surfaces of said first and second portions form at least one angle greater than
or equal to about 90° in said unfolded condition when said absorbent article is
positioned in said folded condition under 2800 psi of said applied pressure for
5 seconds at 21°C and then is released to said unfolded condition for about
20 seconds.

3. The absorbent system of claim 2, wherein said angle is greater
than 110°.

4. The absorbent system of claim 2, wherein said angle is greater
than 130°.

5. The absorbent system of claim 2, wherein the absorbent article
comprises an absorbent core, the absorbent core having a body-side
absorbent layer and a garment side absorbent layer, wherein the body-side
absorbent layer comprises foam and the garment side absorbent layer
comprises a superabsorbent material.

6. The absorbent system of claim 5, wherein the body-side absorbent layer of the absorbent article comprises an open celled foam.

5 7. The absorbent system of claim 2, wherein the absorbent article further comprises a third portion having a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces of said first and third portions being folded to face the body-side surface of said second portion.

8. The absorbent system of claim 2, wherein the absorbent article comprises an absorbent core, the absorbent core comprises a single absorbent layer.

10 9. The absorbent system of claim 2, wherein the absorbent article comprises an absorbent core, the absorbent core having at least two absorbent layers.

15 10. An absorbent article that resists permanent creasing comprising:
an absorbent core comprising at least first and second portions
each defining a body side surface, wherein said absorbent article is
independently movable from a folded condition, wherein said body side
surfaces of said first and second portions face each other in a substantially
parallel relationship under an applied pressure applied to said first and second
portions, to an unfolded condition, wherein no pressure is applied to said first
and second portions;

20 wherein said body-side surfaces of said first and second
portions form at least one angle greater than or equal to about 90° in said
unfolded condition when said absorbent core is positioned and maintained in
said folded condition under 2800 psi of said applied pressure for about 5
25 seconds at 21°C and then is released to said unfolded condition for about 20
seconds.

11. The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said angle is greater than 110°.

12. The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said angle is greater than 130°.

13. The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said absorbent core further comprises a third portion having a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces of said first and third portions being folded to face the body-side surface of said second portion.

14. The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said absorbent core comprises a body-side absorbent layer and a garment side absorbent layer, and wherein said body-side absorbent layer comprises foam and said garment side absorbent layer comprises a superabsorbent material.

15. The absorbent article of claim 14, wherein said body-side absorbent layer comprises an open celled foam.

16. A thin folded absorbent article resistant to permanent creasing comprising:

an absorbent core being independently movable between a folded and an unfolded condition and having a thickness of no more than 8 mm when in said unfolded condition, said absorbent core comprising:

a foam layer; and

a layer comprising superabsorbent;

wherein the absorbent core has at least a first portion with a body-side surface and a second portion with a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces facing one another when said absorbent article is in said folded condition, and

wherein when said absorbent core is moved from said folded condition to said unfolded condition, said body-side surfaces of said first and second portions form at least one angle greater than 90°.

17. The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the absorbent core, when unfolded, has a thickness of less than 5 mm.

18. The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the absorbent core, when unfolded after about 20 seconds, has a thickness of less than 4 mm.

5 19. The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the angle is greater than 110°.

20. The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the angle is greater than 130°.

10 21. The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the absorbent article further includes a third portion having a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces of said first and third portions being folded to face the body-side surface of said second portion.

22. A thin folded absorbent article resistant to permanent creasing comprising:

15 an absorbent core being independently movable between a folded and an unfolded condition and having a thickness of no more than 8 mm when in said unfolded condition, said absorbent core comprising:

a first absorbent layer; and

a second absorbent layer;

20 wherein the absorbent core has at least a first portion with a body-side surface and a second portion with a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces facing one another when said absorbent article is in said folded condition, and

25 wherein when said absorbent core is moved from said folded condition to said unfolded condition, said body-side surfaces of said first and second portions form at least one angle greater than 90°.

23. The thin folded absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the first absorbent layer comprises an open celled foam.

24. The thin folded absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the second absorbent layer is comprised of superabsorbent.

25. A method of using an absorbent article comprising:
providing an absorbent article removably disposed in a
5 packaging component in a folded condition, said absorbent article comprising
at least first and second portions each defining a body side surface, wherein
said absorbent article is independently movable from said folded condition,
wherein said body side surfaces of said first and second portions face each
10 other in a substantially parallel relationship under an applied pressure applied
to said first and second portions, to an unfolded condition, wherein no
pressure is applied to said first and second portions, wherein said body-side
surfaces of said first and second portions form at least one angle greater than
90° in said unfolded condition when said absorbent article is positioned in said
15 folded condition under 2800 psi of said applied pressure for about 5 seconds
at 21°C and then is released to said unfolded condition by;
grasping said absorbent article;
removing said absorbent article from said packaging
component; and
20 allowing said absorbent article to independently move from said
folded condition to said unfolded condition for about 20 seconds.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said at least one angle is greater than 110°.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein said at least one angle is greater than 130°.

25 28. The method of claim 25, wherein the absorbent article comprises an absorbent core, the absorbent core having at least a body-side absorbent layer and a garment side absorbent layer, wherein the body-side absorbent layer comprises foam and the garment side absorbent layer comprises a superabsorbent material.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the body-side absorbent layer of the absorbent article comprises an open celled foam.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein the absorbent article further comprises a third portion having a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces of said first and third portions being folded to face the body-side surface of said second portion.

31. The method of claim 25, wherein the absorbent article, when unfolded, has a thickness of less than 8 mm.

32. The method of claim 25, wherein the absorbent article, when unfolded, has a thickness of less than 5 mm.

33. An absorbent system comprising:
a packaging component; and
an absorbent article removably disposed in said packaging component, said absorbent article comprising at least first and second portions each defining a body side surface, wherein said absorbent article is independently movable from a rolled condition, wherein said body side surfaces of said first and third portions at least partially overlap one another at least two times under an applied pressure applied to said first and third portions, to an unrolled condition, wherein no pressure is applied to said first and third portions; and wherein said body-side surfaces of said first and third portions no longer overlap.

34. The absorbent article of claim 33, wherein said absorbent core comprises a body-side absorbent layer and a garment side absorbent layer, and wherein said body-side absorbent layer comprises foam and said garment side absorbent layer comprises a superabsorbent material.

35. The absorbent article of claim 33, wherein said body-side absorbent layer comprises an open celled foam.